



RECORD

August
2021

The newsletter of the Virginia Association of Government Archives & Records Administrators

President's Letter

Hello VAGARA Friends,

My May letter optimistically began with “light at the end of the pandemic tunnel.” I believe there is still light, we’ve just backed up a bit- maybe around a bend. As tough as the Board’s decision was to call for a virtual conference this year, ARMA’s recent decision to transition to a fully virtual conference the week before ours helps give credence to our decision seven month ago. The safety and well being of VAGARA members is paramount to your Board.

As sorry as we are that in-person conference wasn’t feasible this year, we are looking forward to a great virtual gathering in less than two months. Highlights on the educational sessions and other activities are included further down. To all who responded to the survey on session topics, thank you for your input. That was a great help in the planning process.

The last newsletter indicated that venue contract negotiations were underway for the next two conferences. They have concluded, and your Board is pleased to announce that we plan to gather again at the Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront. For those who like to calendar early- October 26-28, 2022 and October 25-27, 2023. We look forward to in-person conferencing with you then!

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President's Letter continued....

A word of appreciation to Maralee Weeks, Past President (Stafford County Schools), who chaired this year's Nominating Committee of Chris Koch (Chesterfield County), Nicki Taylor (Culpeper County), Rachael Brinson (Town of Remington), and Mina Barberis (City of Norfolk). That group of VAGARA members brought forth a fine slate of officers and members for the 2022-23 Board term. I hope you will support their efforts by attending the October conference and participating in the annual business meeting, when the vote on the nominees will take place. The flourishing of our association is possible only through the participation and contributions of its members. I am grateful for the contributions of these members.

As we prepare for the next generation of VAGARA leadership, it is fitting to recognize one of our original leaders. A founding member and former State Archivist, Dr. Louis Manarin, passed away a few days ago and is briefly remembered below.

Though world events and Delta variants weigh heavily at this time, I do hope your summer has been a good one and wish those who are beginning an academic year the very best in bearing-up well under ever changing protocols. I look forward to "seeing" as many as you possible in the fall conference.

Kindest regards,
Glenn Smith

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Membership Update

We Currently have 138 members; this includes our honorary and vendor members.

Have you had changes to your name, place of employment, Title, address or email? If so, please sign in to <https://vagara.org/> and update your contact details. If you have forgotten your password, you can request a reset by clicking on the Forgot Password link on the homepage.

Please contact ntaylor@culpepercounty.gov with any questions or concerns.

JOIN OR RENEW NOW ►

We Care Program

As part of our We Care program you are encouraged to review and update your membership details. Be sure to add your birthday month, so VAGARA can send you a birthday email during the month of your birthday.

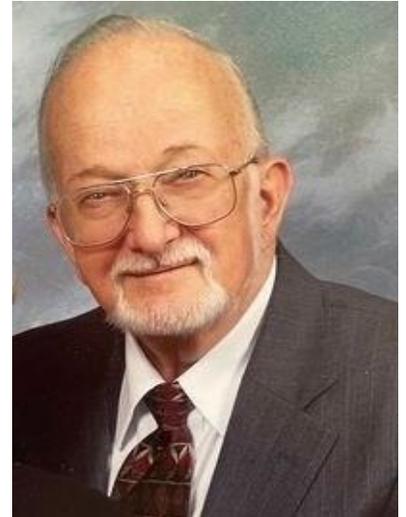


Also, do you know of a member that could use a “pat on the back,” a “thinking of you,” a “get well,” or another spirit-lifter? If so, please email Nicki Taylor at ntaylor@culpepercounty.gov and she will send a card on behalf of VAGARA.

Remembering Dr. Louis H. Manarin 1932 – 2021

Louis H. Manarin; PhD, author, editor, historian, State Archivist (1970-1995), and a founding member of VAGARA; passed away on August 20. In his quarter of a century as State Archivist, Dr. M was instrumental in establishing and developing effective and enduring programs and entities. The Local Records Program helped ensure the preservation of archival and permanent records of political subdivisions and constitutional offices. The Records Management Program of today was significantly developed during his tenure, with special note given to the introduction of Virginia’s Public Records Act. Though the fruit of his labor didn’t come during his term of service, he advocated rigorously throughout his career for the creation of a state records center.

As a strong believer in records preservation, Dr. Manarin secured, with VAGARA support, a National Historical Publications and Records Commission matching grant for preservation surveys at selected records repositories, as well as for state-wide disaster planning and response training. The results of those surveys led to one of his most enduring legacies, the Circuit Court Records Preservation Program. Modeled from less than a handful of other existing state programs, the CCRP was legislatively established in 1990 and, in 1992, began awarding grants to preserve permanent records housed in the then 121 circuit court clerks’ offices. Since then, the CCRP has awarded \$24.5 million through 1,825 grants, and provided funding to process and make accessible circuit court records archived at the Library of Virginia.



Per Associational history, Robert “Bob” Friedman, the City of Alexandria’s then records manager, “volunteered to “chart a course” of action” in establishing what would become VAGARA. One of his first steps was contacting the State Archivist for support. From that first conversation, Dr. Manarin went on to become a member of the steering committee that established the association and the first Ex Officio board member, a position held until he separated from state service. He helped draft the original Constitution and Bylaws, served on the first scholarship committee, and was a frequent conference presenter.

Dr. Manarin’s dedication to preserving Virginia’s documentary heritage, as well as improving the management of government records, along with his contributions to the establishment and growth of VAGARA have been and are still a benefit to our Commonwealth. VAGARA offers condolences to his family and friends over his passing.

VAGARA Virtual Conference 2021

Mark your calendars for VAGARA's 2021 Fall Virtual Conference scheduled for Thursday, October 28th from 9:00am to 12:30 pm.

This half-day event features three dynamic sessions on records and information management topics that matter to you!

<https://vagara.org/annual-conference>

Come for the education and stay for a fun game of records-related trivia – and don't forget the prize giveaways!

Cost: Free for VAGARA members!

Platform: Zoom

Registration opens on September 7th!



The following slate of nominees will be presented to the membership for a vote at the fall virtual conference:

President – *Jessie Graham* (UVA)
Vice President – *Margie Tacci* (Town of Herndon)
Treasurer – *Jonathan Tillman* (City of Hampton)
Secretary – *Mina Barberis* (City of Norfolk)
Historian – *Matthew Logie* (Fairfax County)
Members at Large –
Ben Smith (UVA Medical Center)
Rachael Brinson (Town of Remington)
Nicki Taylor (Culpeper County)
Travis Morris (Albemarle County)
Past President – *Glenn Smith* (LVA)

calling all
Vendors

Did you know?

Vendor members of VAGARA are eligible for **FREE** advertising in the Newsletter! Paid vendor members may contact the Newsletter Editor for more details.



ANNOUNCEMENT CORNER



Do you have a job posting you'd like to announce? A retirement or promotion you'd like to celebrate? Please consider emailing announcements@vagara.org to have it included in a future newsletter and/or on the website!

Welcome New Members!



VAGARA welcomes those that have become members since our last newsletter. We are thrilled to have you and cannot wait to get to know you. Should you need any assistance, please feel free to contact any VAGARA member.

*TaylorMae Upson, Chesapeake Mosquito Control Commission
Alicia Finney, City of Lynchburg
Susan Throckmorton, Southern VA Higher Education Center*



VAGARA Trivia

The first to respond with the correct answer(s) wins a gift card!

Send responses to:
announcements@vagara.org

Question:

When is American Archives Month recognized?

Do you have photos?

If you have photos taken at VAGARA Annual Conferences, 2012-2019, please email announcements@vagara.org. We would love to have them as we compile the organizational history for this time period.

Thank You VAGARA Vendor Members!



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